

Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled.
2. (Previously Presented) A method for allowing update and edit control over an extended time period in a database system, the method comprising:
 - defining library control functions in a database system, including providing a checkout function to lock at least one cell in a managed database table of the database system; and
 - utilizing the library control functions via structured query language statements to ensure data integrity during accessing of complex data objects comprising opaque data types in the database system.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein defining library control functions further comprises creating a set of update and delete triggers in correspondence with the checkout function.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein defining library control functions further comprises creating a set of control tables for each selected table that contains columns enabled for control under the library control functions.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein utilizing the library control functions further comprises utilizing the set of control tables to designate a primary key, the primary key being based on an identity of a user accessing data as well as a column name of the data being accessed.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising utilizing the primary key as an edit control mechanism for a checked-out cell until an update occurs by the user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein utilizing the library control functions further comprises utilizing the library control functions to control access to a workflow document.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the workflow document further comprises a decomposed XML document.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the decomposed XML document further comprises an XML workflow document received via electronic mail.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the set of update and delete triggers streamline performance of each workflow step from the decomposed workflow document.

11. Canceled.

12. (Previously Presented) A system for allowing update and edit control over an extended time period in a database system, the system comprising:

at least one computer processing device; and

a database management system installed on the at least one computer processing device, the database management system supporting definition of library control functions and utilization of the library control functions via structured query language statements that include a checkout function to lock at least one cell in a managed database table of the database system to ensure data

integrity during accessing of complex data objects comprising opaque data types in the database system.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the database management system further supports creation of a set of update and delete triggers in correspondence with the checkout function.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the database management system further supports creation of a set of control tables for each selected table that contains columns enabled for control under the library control functions.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the database management system further supports utilizing the library control functions through utilizing the set of control tables to designate a primary key , the primary key being based on an identity of a user accessing data and as well as a column name of the data being accessed.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the database management system further supports utilizing the primary key as an edit control mechanism for a checked-out cell until an update occurs by the user.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the database management system further supports utilizing the library control functions to control access to a workflow document.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the workflow document further comprises a decomposed XML document.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the decomposed XML document further comprises an XML workflow document received via electronic mail.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the set of update and delete triggers streamline performance of each workflow step from the decomposed workflow document.

21. Canceled.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for allowing update and edit control over an extended time period in a database system, the program instructions comprising:

defining library control functions in a database system, including providing a checkout function to lock at least one cell in a managed database table of the database system and creating a set of update and delete triggers in correspondence with the checkout function; and

utilizing the library control functions via structured query language statements to ensure data integrity of opaque data types in the database system.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein defining library control functions further comprises creating a set of control tables for each selected table that contains columns enabled for control under the library control functions.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein utilizing the library control functions further comprises utilizing the set of control tables to designate a primary key, the primary key being based on an identity of a user accessing data as well as a column name of the data being accessed.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 24 further comprising utilizing the primary key as an edit control mechanism for a checked-out cell until an update occurs by the user.

26. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein utilizing the library control functions further comprises utilizing the library control functions to control access to a workflow document.

27. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein the workflow document further comprises a decomposed XML document.

28. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein the decomposed XML document further comprises an XML workflow document received via electronic mail.

29. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 28 wherein the set of update and delete triggers streamline performance of each workflow step from the decomposed workflow document.